

HEWLETT,  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 22 2005

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of	) Examiner Janelle Combs Morillo
Venema et al	)
Serial No. 10/706,846	) Group Art Unit 1742
Confirmation No. 6084	)
Filed 11/12/2003	) Atty. Docket # 4430-031234 (03-1257)
For METHOD OF MANUFACTURING	)
A NEAR-NET SHAPE ALLOY	)
PRODUCT	)

December 21, 2005

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**Rule 1.131 Declaration**

I, Jeffrey J. Witters, an employee of ALCOA, declare and state:

- (1) The invention described in the above referenced patent application was invented by myself and other ALCOA personnel prior to February 13, 2003.
- (2) United States Patent Application 2004/0182483 by Heymes et al. was cited against the present application in an Office Action dated August 25, 2005.
- (3) The priority date for the Heymes application is based on the United States Provisional Patent Application having serial number 60/446,993 filed on February 13, 2003.